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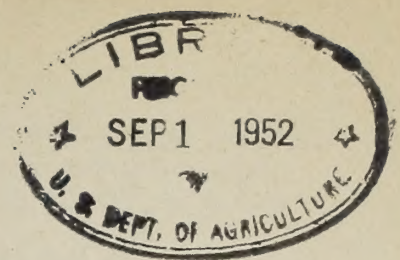
Discussion
led by

Dr. Helen Jeter

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on

POST-WAR PLANNING.



Miss Jeter had been requested to present to the Nutrition Planning Committee Agriculture's plans for post-war planning; therefore, consideration was given first to some of the background information, including the basic machinery for post-war planning. Attention was next directed to the development of State plans for good nutrition in the post-war period that had been requested by Secretary Wickard as a part of State reports on post-war planning for Agriculture; and finally, the Chairman, Miss Jessie W. Harris, directed discussion to the immediate importance of enlisting the interest of the State nutrition committees in order to direct the post-war plans to the nutritional goals.

In presenting the background information, the machinery outlined included:

1. The organization of the United States Department of Agriculture Inter-bureau Committee in 1941 and its development through various stages; the reason for creation of the Committee, and its early relation to the Public Works Reserve (of the Federal Works Agency and the National Resources Planning Board) which was designed to stimulate State and local planning with no intention of stimulating Federal planning. The U.S.D.A. committee has had only a minor interest in public works as such and has conceived its program to be planning for rural life in all its aspects. In the field of nutrition, however, the welfare of urban people also becomes of interest to agricultural production.

U.S.D.A. set up this Committee with representation from all bureaus and agencies in Agriculture (although some have not participated actively). Attention was drawn to the fact that through representation of bureau and agency interests functional interest were not necessarily covered. For example, some agencies, like the Office of Distribution, have a number of functions but are usually represented by only one person.

2. Nine regional committees were set up at the same time as the Inter-bureau Committee. These are made up of the field representatives of the various bureaus and agencies of the United States Department of Agriculture. However, those bureaus without a regional staff like the Bureau of Human Nutrition and Home Economics designated home economists from State agencies or from other Federal agencies. It has been difficult for the Bureau to maintain any very close contact with these representatives. The regional work of the home economists has therefore been practically decentralized.

When Miss Jeter came on the staff in September 1942, Dr. Stanley asked her to take over membership both on the Inter-bureau Committee and also in the Northeastern Regional Committee. Later Miss Jeter appointed Dr. Lucile Reynolds of



U.S. DEPT. OF AGRICULTURE
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the Extension Service as the Bureau representative on the Northeastern Regional Committee. Mrs. Grace Angle, a member of the Bureau of Human Nutrition and Home Economics staff serves as a member of the Appalachian Regional Committee.

Attention was drawn to the fact that in that early period the Department was engaged in land use planning, and had organized State and local committees on land use planning. The connection between these committees and the U.S.D.A. was dissolved, however, by Congressional action. Therefore the Regional Committees were left without any direct connection with State planning except through the usual U.S.D.A. channels of Extension Service and relationships to Land-Grant Colleges.

Three periods may be thought of in the history of U.S.D.A. organization for post-war planning:

Period I - November 1941 to August 1942

Period II - from August 1942 to July 1943

Period III - from July 1943 to present

In Period I, the work of the Inter-bureau Committee was chiefly sub-committee work on general aspects of rural planning and service. One sub-committee concerned itself with minimum essentials for rural housing and a pamphlet was published (Misc. Pub. 475). Another was concerned with a medical program, and an experimental group health program was actually set up and is still being administered in six counties; namely: Cass County, Texas; Hamilton County, Nebraska; Nevada County, Arkansas; Newton County, Mississippi; Wheeler County, Texas; and Walton County, Georgia. (N.B. This is not the Farm Security program and is open to all farm families.) Another sub-committee outlined a State plan for physical resources and this outline was made available to States for their work on post-war planning.

In Period II the Federal committee did not as a group develop any plans. Instead it attempted to guide the work of the nine regional committees, setting up a series of tasks for them to perform. Included in these tasks were (1) assembly of facts about agricultural conditions, (2) statement on long time objectives for the agricultural population, (3) statement on probable agricultural conditions at the end of the war, and (4) development of regional plans for post-war agriculture.

From the very beginning there was a resistance toward developing a public works program unless it could be aimed to improve the conditions of agricultural life. In order to carry out their objectives, the regional committees needed facts. One of the first jobs they tackled was to prepare an Atlas for Agriculture. In fact, nine atlases were developed in nine regions. Information on all aspects of agricultural resources, production, income, marketing, health, housing, etc. was put together, some of it very fragmentary.

Period III began in July 1943, with a conference of regional chairmen and the Inter-bureau Committee at Milwaukee. At this conference, some major steps were taken toward securing the cooperation of the Committee on Policies of the Land-Grant Colleges Association. Following this meeting a committee on post-war planning was created by the Land-Grant College Association and most of the regional committees expanded their membership to include State College representatives.

There was much discussion of machinery of operation, of regional plans vs. national plans and of geographical vs. functional planning. A decision was made, however, to continue work on a regional--geographical basis and also on a functional basis through the work of "national working groups."

Two of the working committees appointed at this conference presented finished documents, as a result of synthesis of nine regional reports on the same subject. These are now available in published form:

- (1) What Post-War Policies for Agriculture (The Farmer and the War - No. 7)
January 1944
- (2) Agriculture When The War Ends. (mimeo. by RAE)

Another conference of regional chairmen was held in Washington in October 1943. This conference was concerned primarily with the discussion of mechanics. Regional plans were developing very slowly and some persons questioned how valuable they would be for practical operations. At this meeting therefore the Secretary of Agriculture asked for - not nine regional reports but 48 State reports which would be due February 29, 1944. Ideally, the reports were to be prepared by the States. However, if they were not written by the States, they were to be written by representatives of the Department. The regional chairmen were to arrange for the reports with the people from the Land-Grant Colleges and others equipped to do this work in the regional committees. A few of the States could not comply with the request and their reports were written by representatives of the Department.

At the Washington conference, a suggested outline was developed for the State reports including a section on nutrition. This outline on nutrition was developed by staff members of the Bureau of Human Nutrition and Home Economics and the Office of Distribution. It was not sent directly to the State but went through the same channels as other outlines, that is, to the regional chairman, from the regional chairman to the chairman of the State College committee (usually the head of the State College) and perhaps eventually to chairman of a sub-committee on nutrition.

After the State reports were received in Washington on February 29, 1944, a national working group on nutrition was organized by Dr. Sherman with representatives of all the agencies in Agriculture that have nutrition programs. The members were asked to comment on the nutrition sections of the State reports. (Copies of comments by the working group were distributed to members of the Planning Committee. The committee was cautioned, however, to accept this report as confidential because it has "just gone to the Secretary as a confidential

memorandum.") A report will be prepared in the near future by the group for release to State Colleges, State Nutrition Committees and other persons interested in the field.

(Miss Harris suggested that the group might wish to discuss where the State nutrition committees fit into the post-war planning program.) Miss Jeter pointed out that the traditional State contact of the Department of Agriculture is the LandGrant College. In some instances, the State nutrition committees were brought into the post-war planning from the very beginning by the College and took part in making the State report. The Texas and South Carolina reports and three or four of the others show the participation of the State nutrition committees and the importance of their influence. It was acknowledged that the short time allowed for the report was one of its chief defects. Also, the outline developed for the nutrition section did not always get into the hands of the people who were to write the report; and the workers most able to prepare the report were not always invited to participate. Nevertheless the report as now compiled can afford a means for future planning; and it is anticipated that the reports will be developed further as a basis for action.

It was acknowledged that at the very beginning, the Department of Agriculture intended to focus on rural problems and services; however, it has become quite apparent that the planning for nutrition must extend into the urban as well as rural areas and include other agencies besides those in Agriculture.

Miss Jeter said, "When it comes to nutrition, you have to bring in the total population. Planning for nutrition is extremely complicated."

It was suggested that we start with a part of the job. Maybe we could determine needs and start our planning there.

Miss Harris mentioned that Dr. Wilhelm Anderson, Secretary of the Appalachian Regional Committee wanted to send the State Nutrition Committees the complete report (i.e. the State report on all subjects including nutrition) and to ask them to follow up by undertaking a better plan for nutrition on a wider basis. Miss Jeter said he had asked Mrs. Grace Angle of the Bureau of Human Nutrition and Home Economics, who is a member of the regional committee, to cover the States to see if greater interest on the part of State Nutrition Committees might be enlisted. Miss Jeter said that she had recommended the participation of the field consultants of the Nutrition Programs Branch instead, suggesting that they would be in a better position to do this job than Mrs. Angle. They would doubtless be traveling through the States in connection with their regular program and they might be able to talk with the State chairman and other leaders concerned in this program and interest them in developing a report which would actually be descriptive of the nutrition planning within the State. Dr. Anderson said that he wanted that report by July 1.

The Bureau of Human Nutrition and Home Economics suggested that it might be better to have the States work at their own pace and that the emphasis should be upon actually planning and carrying out programs rather than upon preparing paper plans.

(Attached is the outline which the Bureau of Human Nutrition and Home Economics and the Office of Distribution developed for the use of the States.)

A SUGGESTED OUTLINE FOR NUTRITION IN
STATE POST-WAR PLANS FOR AGRICULTURE

A. Plan for Good Nutrition for Farm People

I. Present situation (touch upon very briefly as emphasis should be placed on plans for the future.)

1. Summary of what is known about the nutritional status of the agricultural population in the area as indicated by
 - a. Dietary surveys
 - b. Incidence of nutritional deficiencies
 - c. Public health statistics
 - d. Observations of qualified persons (Extension Service and Farm Security Agents, health officers, etc.)
2. Discussion of extent to which poor diets are the result of
 - a. Low incomes
 - b. Inadequate distribution of supplies
 - c. Traditional food habits
 - d. Lack of knowledge.
3. The extent of home production of food for family use and its relation to good diets.
4. Effect of war situation on food consumption and adequacy of diets--through
 - a. Rationing
 - b. Shifts in income levels
 - c. Food supply and price changes
 - d. Increase in employment of homemakers
5. Results of present programs in the area to improve the level of nutrition
 - a. School lunch projects
 - b. "Live at home" programs
 - c. Nutrition education campaign
 - d. Others

II. Desirable objectives and major problems involved in attaining them

A. Desirable objectives

It is assumed that the nutritional goal will be similar in all areas--for all people, food that provides the dietary allowances recommended by the National Research Council.

